

To: R8 GKM Leadership Team[R8_GKM_LeadershipTeam@epa.gov]
From: Garcia, Bert
Sent: Tue 10/20/2015 7:49:34 PM
Subject: FW: NM GKM Monitoring Plan
[NMGKMLongTermMonitoringPlanOfficialDraft-Final.pdf](#)

Attached, and some initial observations are below.

Bert Garcia
Director, Ecosystems Protection Program
EPA Region 8

From: Spence, Sandra
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 1:44 PM
To: Tulis, Dana; Wall, Tom; Garcia, Bert; Pierce, Maggie; Hermann, Karl; Merritt, Steven; Holdsworth, Susan; Garcia, Bert; John, Forrest; Cook, Robert; Garcia, David; Smith, Monica; Hashimoto, Janet; Montgomery, Michael
Subject: RE: NM GKM Monitoring Plan

Thanks for sending Dana. Here are my first thoughts....

I've taken a quick look and we will go through it in detail. Regarding changes we should make in the Fall sampling event, I didn't find sampling locations specified in the NM plan (am I'm overlooking something?); so, I believe we will stick with those already identified in our plan unless someone has other info to share. Generally, the NM plan expands the scope of Objective B so there's little for us to incorporate into Objective A planning. We will look at the analytes they plan to sample in surface water and see if we need to add any to be consistent. We might consider adding TSS and TDS as they are in this plan and others have made that comment as well - TSS makes sense to me. That said, the data we collect this fall should be helpful to NM in filling some data gaps; but they have a much broader scope to fill. The scope of Objective B can be addressed via Objective B funding. They have similar study objectives as we do and it may be difficult for them to assess the specific impacts from the spill for their range of proposed analytes and media unless they identify sampling location with historic datasets. If they carry out the plan they propose, they should end up with a thorough dataset on a waterbody that has not been monitored frequently, which is great.

Thanks,
Sandie

From: Tulis, Dana
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 11:26 AM
To: Spence, Sandra; Wall, Tom; Evans, David; Holdsworth, Susan; Honker, William; Edlund, Carl; Garcia, Bert; Garcia, David; Manzanilla, Enrique; Hashimoto, Janet; Lee, Eugene; Merritt, Steven;

Pierce, Maggie; Hermann, Karl

Cc: Watson, Jane; Crocker, Philip; Ngo, Kim; Restivo, Angela; Cook, Robert; John, Forrest; Crossland, Ronnie; Coleman, Sam; Delehanty, Robyn

Subject: NM GKM Monitoring Plan

<< File: NMGKMLongTermMonitoringPlanOfficialDraft-Final.pdf >>

Please see attached.

Dana S. Tulis

Deputy Office Director

Office of Emergency Management, EPA

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-----Original Appointment-----

From: Spence, Sandra

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 3:41 PM

To: Spence, Sandra; Tulis, Dana; Wall, Tom; Evans, David; Holdsworth, Susan; Honker, William; Edlund, Carl; Garcia, Bert; Garcia, David; Manzanilla, Enrique; Hashimoto, Janet; Lee, Eugene; Merritt, Steven; Pierce, Maggie; Hermann, Karl

Cc: Watson, Jane; Crocker, Philip; Ngo, Kim; Restivo, Angela; Cook, Robert; John, Forrest; Crossland, Ronnie; Coleman, Sam; Delehanty, Robyn

Subject: GKM Monitoring Plan Update and Next Steps

When: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-07:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada).

Where: Call Number Nonresponsive Conference Code

Hi All, Please attend to discuss next steps on the GKM Monitoring Plan. This follows from the discussion from last Thursday's 3:00 principals call. Below is the draft agenda and current version of external messages regarding the plan. Please forward to others I may have missed.

Thanks, Sandie << File: Comment Response Team.xlsx >>

Draft Agenda:

- Quick update:
 - Funding decisions for Objective A and Objective B
 - Status of responses to stakeholder comments
 - Plan for sampling this Fall -
 - Funding
 - Schedule
 - QAPP/SAP
 - Field Crews and preparations
 - Support needed from R6 and R9 for tribal notification and access
- Next steps and Support Needs

- Do we to send out a stakeholder message before calls for access to Fall event?
- R8, R6, R9 Tribal coordination for sampling access for next two weeks
- Comment response support proposal - to be sent before call for consideration
- Plan update timeline
- External language for GKM Monitoring Plan Funding and Roles

Message for Regions to use as they reach out to states, tribal nations and local governments about establishing cooperative agreements to implement Objective B of the Draft Conceptual Plan for monitoring surface water, sediment and biology in the Animas-San Juan River watershed

The EPA is currently reviewing comments on its draft Conceptual Monitoring Plan for monitoring surface water, sediment and biology in the Animas-San Juan River watershed. We recognize that some aspects of the plan may change, but in the meantime we are reaching out to you now to share our thinking regarding how best to implement the plan, once it is final, including our proposal for entering into cooperative agreements with states and tribal nations to implement elements of the plan.

EPA will be implementing the Conceptual Monitoring Plan via the Superfund Removal and Water Programs in EPA Regions 6, 8, and 9. The monitoring plan will characterize post-release surface water quality, sediment quality, and biological community monitoring that will occur for at least the course of the year following the GKM Release Incident. EPA will consider these data results in determining whether the plan needs to be extended beyond the year, working closely with EPA's State and Tribal partners and local governments.

There are two basic objectives to the Monitoring Plan. Objective A will determine whether water quality, sediment, and biological community trends in Cement Creek, the Animas River, and the San Juan River changed since the GKM Release Incident by comparing pre- and post-incident data. The Superfund Removal Program will carry out Objective A activities using Agency resources and contractor staff, coordinating closely with the Water Program.

Objective B will identify current conditions of Cement Creek, Animas River, San Juan River and Lake Powell through the collection of surface water, sediment, and biological samples at multiple locations for comparison to water quality standards and/or screening levels and to previous assessments if available. The Water Program will take the leadership on Objective B in terms of resources, coordinating closely with the Superfund Program. Resources will be provided via CWA 106 grants and assistance agreements to States and Tribal Nations to conduct Objective B sampling and analysis. States will continue to have the option of providing portions of funding they receive to local county and other jurisdictions as applicable. EPA will issue waivers to eliminate the need for tribal matching funds.-

In order to ensure that the opportunity to collect important data this fall is not lost while the EPA finalizes the monitoring plan, we intend to carry out the upcoming Fall sampling event under the Superfund Removal Program for both Objectives to close out Superfunds' current river sampling as the management of the site is transitions from the Incident Command Post to Region 8 and from the Superfund Removal Program to the longer-term assessment of possible impacts from the release. The Superfund Removal Program will also continue to work on stabilizing the mine site and maintaining and operating an interim water treatment system.

Sampling results will be continue to be shared and interpreted with the general public. As noted above, EPA will consider these data in determining the need for sampling beyond the first year,

working closely with state and tribal partners and local governments.